Shortage of Currency

5112. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa is facing a serious currency shortage and paralysing normal financial transactions as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a sudden spurt in demand for cash as compared to previous years presumably due to launching of food for work and other employment programmes and schemes for procurement of Tendu leaves, etc. by the State Govt. to help the people in view of the drought in the State.

(c) Additional funds have been arranged by RBI to its Bhubaneswar office which, in turn, supplies the same to currency chests.

SEBI

5113. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI has vetted the system called Securities and Authoritative Guarantee programme to clean market of fraud ;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether this system has been based on the signature system in USA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it is likely to help in minimising the market frauds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. SEBI has informed that it has not vetted any system called the Securities and Authoritative Guarantee Programme.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Vijaya Bank Frauds

5114. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether frauds involving crores of rupees which took place in Vijaya Bank between the years 1987 and 1992 have been discovered; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those who were found responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Vijaya Bank has reported that frauds/vigilance cases involving an amount of more than Rs. 1 crore pertaining to the period 1987-1992 were detected by the bank in the following six accounts :-

(1) Vijaya Video Exports and sister concerns.
(2) Asian Wire Ropes Ltd. and M/s. Asian Ispat Pvt. Ltd.
(3) PJ Pipes & Vessels Ltd.
(4) RKB Herbals Pvt. Ltd.
(5) Sabson Frieght Containers Pvt. Ltd.
(6) Saraf Group and Lohia Group of companies.

Central Bureau of Investigation had registered cases in respect of all these accounts. Departmental action has also been initiated in all the cases and punishment has been imposed on 27 of the delinquent officials.

Setting up of a Power Project at Kalve

5115. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Union Government from B.S.E.S. Company to set up a Thermal Power Project at Kalve in Thane District of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No project proposal has been received in the Central Electricity Authority from BSES Company to set up a thermal power project at Kalve in Thane District of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Southern Gas Grid

5116. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Southern States which have demanded setting up the Southern Gas Grid;

(b) whether the Government has made any positive assurance to Southern States to set up Southern Gas Grid; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Demands for the Southern Gas Grid have been received from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala.

(b) and (c) The Government have approved in Principle the concept of a Southern Gas Grid to transport gas from the western offshore fields, supplemented by imported natural gas/LNG.

[Translation]

Management Examination

5117. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to Unstarred